

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 L-03 AF-10

ARA-06 PRS-01 PA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 EPG-02 /108 W

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O R 041230Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7949

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4436

IO FOR ASST SEC MAYNES

PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY MARSHAL AND ILAB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC) COMMITTEES

ELECT OFFICERS

REF: GENEVA 4382

1. SUMMARY: ARAB-LED AFRICAN GROUP INTRANSIGENCE IN INFORMAL

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NEGOTIATIONS CREATED UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION ON JUNE 3 IN

WHICH ILC COMMITTEES INDIVIDUALLY ELECTED THEIR CHAIRMEN.

WITH EXCEPTION OF RESOLUTION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, RESULTS

WERE AS ARRANGED INFIRMALLY EARLIER THIS WEEK (PARA 3

REFTEL). CHERIF OF TUNISIA WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WENT TO

BANDA OF ZAMBIA. NEITHER IN AFRICAN CAUCUS NOR IN

INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUB-AFRICAN AFRICANS WILLING TO BUCK CHERIF'S CANDIDACY (SEE PARA 4 BELOW). END SUMMARY.

2. AT MEETING OF WESTERN LEADERS CALLED BY ILC PRESIDENT AMEDUME EVENING OF JUNE 2, AMEDUME REPORTED ENNACEUR WAS STANDING FIRM ON HIS DEMANDS THAT AFRICANS BE GIVEN RESOLUTIONS, FINANCE AND STRUCTURE COMMITTEES. HOROWITZ, FORWARD (UK) AND COOK (AUSTRALIA) MADE IT CLEAR CHERIF WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS CHAIRMAN OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (BECAUSE OF HIS LONG AND PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO 1974 RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL) BUT THAT UNBIASED BLACK AFRICAN WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HOROWITZ POINTED OUT THIS WAS CASE OF AFRICA DECIDING WHAT WAS IN ITS OWN INTEREST. FORWARD TOOK THE POSITION THAT AS LONG AS AFRICANS INSISTED ON CHERIF, EUROPEANS WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON VELDKAMP. USDEL CONVEYED THIS MESSAGE INFORMALLY TO BLACK AFRICANS, WHOSE LABOR MINISTERS WERE SCHEDULED TO MEET MORNING OF JUNE 3.

3. AT CONTINUATION OF INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS MORNING OF JUNE 3, ENNACEUR REITERATED AFRICAN DEMANDS FOR THE THREE COMMITTEES, INCLUDING CHERIF'S DEMANDS FOR THE THREE COMMITTEES, INCLUDING CHERIF'S CANDIDACY FOR RESOLUTIONS. THIS WAS OPPOSED BY ASIAN, LA AND EUROPEAN GROUPS (WHO MIGHT HAVE LOST POSITIONS AGREED UPON EARLIER) IN SHRILL REPETITION OF ARGUMENTS. HOROWITZ (SUPPORTED BY ALL GROUPS EXCEPT EE WHO REMAINED SILENT) PROPOSED GOING ALONG WITH AGREEMENT ON CHAIRMANSHIPS
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REACHED MAY 31-JUNE 1 AND CONCENTRATING ON RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF CONTROVERSY. ENNACEUR REJECTED THIS, AND HE REJECTED A SUBSEQUENT PROPOSAL BY AMEDUME THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOCUS ON RESOLUTIONS, FINANCE AND STRUCTURE. AMEDUME THEN CONCLUDED THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT FOR EACH COMMITTEE TO ELECT ITS OWN CHAIRMAN. AT END OF MEETING HOROWITZ POINTED OUT US RECOGNIZES NEED FOR HONORS FOR AFRICA, AND HAD PROPOSED A SOLUTION ON JUNE 1 (AN UNBIASED BLACK AFRICAN FOR RESOLUTIONS) BUT THAT A FEW INDIVIDUALS (READ ENNACEUR AND CHERIF) WERE BENT ON PREVENTING THIS COMPROMISE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT BLACK AFRICANS HAVE NOT SOUGHT SHOW DOWN WITH THE ARABS IN SPITE OF THEIR INCREASING DISSATISFACTION WITH BEING USED BY THEM.

5. IN COMMITTEE ELECTIONS, ONLY RESOLUTIONS WAS CONTESTED. AFRICANS READILY CONCEDED STRUCTURE TO AZIMI

AND BANDA (ZAMBIA) WAS ELECTED WITHOUT OPPOSITION IN
FINANCE. CHERIF DEFEATED VELKAMP (NETHERLANDS) BY
FOLLOWING WEIGHTED VOTE: 153, 723, WITH 106, 755 FOR
VELKAMP AND 8, 401 ABSTAINING. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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